Regular Council Meeting November 10, 2025

Mayor Stan Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Darwin Sietsema, Brian Baartman, Chris McCurdy, and Stu Peterson. Also in attendance were Matt Gross, Danny Moffitt, Darrin Haroldson, and Rochelle VanderWoude.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Minutes of the October meeting and October 20, 2025 special meeting were approved by M/Sietsema 2/Baartman/cd unanimously.

Attorney Matt Gross from Quarnstrom & Doering, P.A. Law Firm was here to introduce himself to the city council. The council approved to appoint Attorney Matt Gross as the Ruthton City Attorney as of January 1, 2026 by M/Sietsema 2/Peterson/cd unanimously.

Danny Moffitt was here to again discuss the new concession stand at the ballfield. It was approved to move forward with the building of the concession stand by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

Wastewater Supervisor, Darrin Haroldson gave the council his report for the month of October and answered the council's questions.

The October bills were presented and approved by M/Peterson 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously. Receipts = \$80,606.70 Disbursements = \$81,712.73

Effective January 1, 2026 the Minnesota Paid Leave Law goes into effect for all employees including full time, elective officials, fire personnel, first responders, and seasonal employees. Minnesota Paid leave is funded by premiums paid by employees and employers. The initial premium rate is 0.88% of covered wages. The city must cover at least 50 percent of premium costs. After discussion the council approved to pay 50 percent or 0.44% with the remaining 50 percent or 0.44% being paid by employee by M/Sietsema 2/Baartman/cd unanimously. It was approved to adopt the Minnesota Paid Leave Policy and to update the Personnel Policy by M/Sietsema 2/Baartman/cd unanimously.

Tenure pay was approved for full-time employees with 15 years or more years of employment with the City of Ruthton on November 12, 2024. It was approved to adopt the Employee Service Longevity Policy and to update the Personnel Policy by M/Sietsema 2/Baartman/cd unanimously. The Employee Service Longevity Policy will be reviewed annually in August.

There have been questions asked about Direct Pay for utility billing. A bid was received by Banyon for the add-on module for \$495.00 with Annual Support for \$195.00/year. Total cost being \$690.00. After much discussion it was decided to purchase the add-on Direct Pay Module from Banyon for \$690.00 by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

Renewal of liquor license's for Stubb's Pub and Sunset Bar & Grill were approved pending proof of liquor liability insurance by M/Peterson 2/ Sietsema/cd unanimously.

A list of people owing delinquent charges was presented to the council. A letter to each delinquent account was mailed on October 16, 2025, notifying them of the delinquent amount and unless paid will be certified on their property taxes as a Special Assessment. A total of two (2) properties will be assessed special assessments for delinquent charges. After discussion it was approved by M/Baartman 2/Peterson/cd unanimously with Resolution 2025-07 to certify to the Pipestone County Auditor any delinquent charges if not paid on or before November 21, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. by M/Sietsema.

Rochelle VanderWoude Ruthton City Clerk/Treasurer